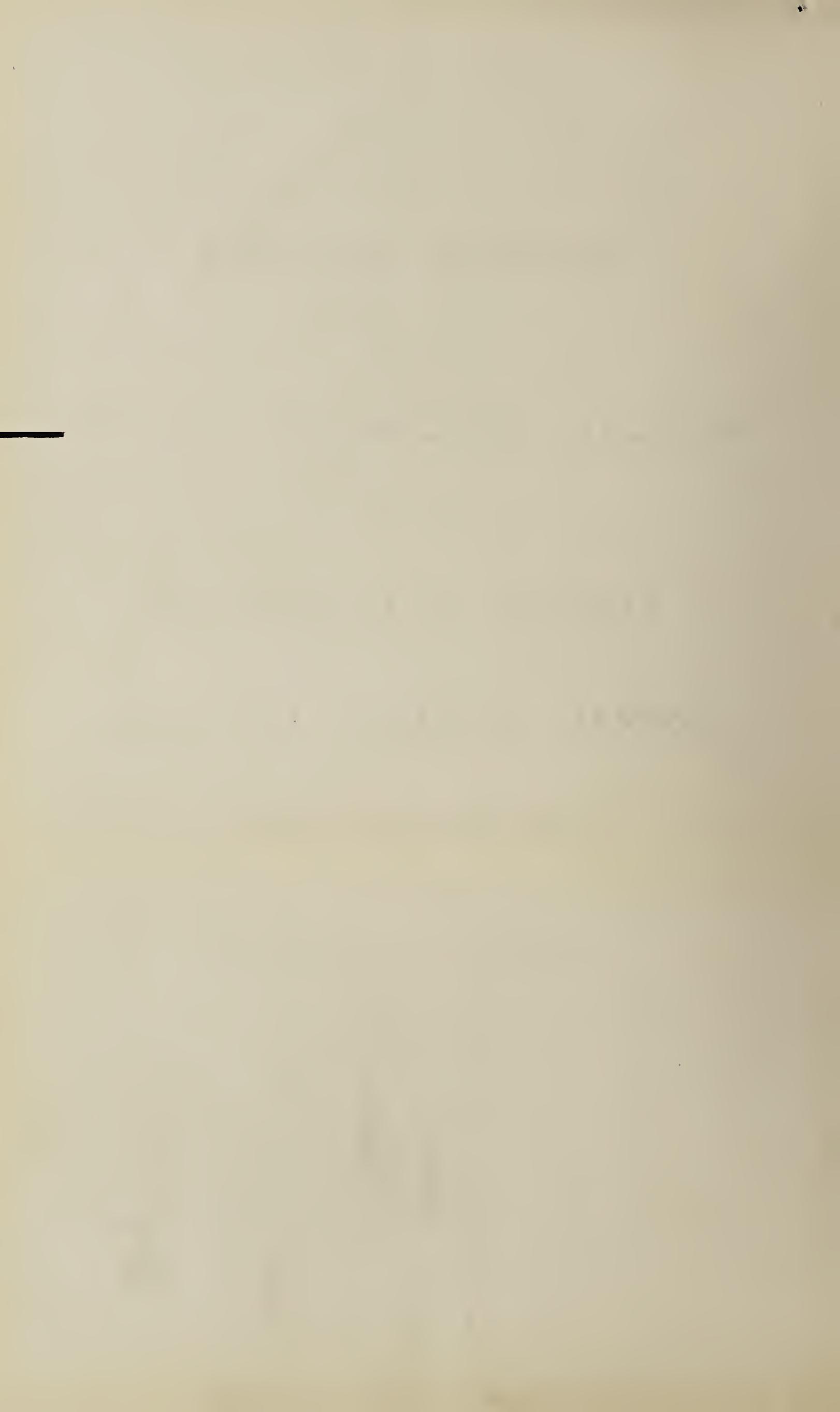


ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
nor
LODDON & CLAVERING
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

For the Year 1903.

E. THURLOW PRIOR,
M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

Medical Officer of Health.



ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1903.

To the Chairman and Members of
The Loddon and Clavering Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Report of the above District for the year 1903. No change has taken place in the area of the District. The Health of the District has been good, although I have had 64 cases of Infectious Diseases notified to me, against 47 in the previous year. There has only been one case of Enteric Fever. The Mortality in the District is less this year, being only 158 against 169 in the year previous. The Mortality in the Workhouse has been greater during the last year, namely:— 17 against 12 in the previous year. The Deaths from Consumption are the same as the year previous, namely:— 10. The Deaths from other Chest Complaints are considerably less, namely:— 9 against 21. There have been three deaths from Diphtheria.

Population.

I regret to inform you that the Population of the District is decreasing very much. Taking the average between the Census of 1891 and that of 1901 I find we are actually losing 81 per year. I should like to point out that we have last year 305 Births registered, and against that 158 Deaths, so that we ought to have an increase of 147, but instead of that we decrease 81 per year, so that we lose by migration 228, which is a very serious number.

Inspections.

The whole District is being periodically and systematically inspected. The houses are fairly habitable. No house was closed as being unfit for human habitation. The requirements of a large portion of the District in the matter of maintaining proper drains and means of disposal of refuse were frequently under your consideration, and many alterations and improvements were made. There were two prosecutions last year. There has been a great increase of work during the past year.

I append a summary:—

		1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Drains opened and cleansed	...	...	6	9	8	
Defective drains repaired	...	...	0	7	8	
Yards of pipe drains laid	...	...	135	282	538	
Gully traps fixed	...	...	19	34	84	
Drains removed from inside houses	...	...	1	5	4	
Intercepting traps fixed	...	...	1	3	9	
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	1	3	9	
New cesspools provided	...	...	0	1	3	
Insanitary cesspools filled up	...	...	0	2	3	
Sumps abolished	...	...	2	6	4	
Cesspools ventilated	...	...	0	0	3	
,, cleansed	...	...	0	0	5	
,, covered	...	...	0	0	1	
Obstructed W.C.'s opened and cleansed	...	...	0	3	1	
New W.C.'s fixed in place of defective ones	...	1	1	3		
W.C.'s abolished and converted to pails	...	0	4	1		
Ventilating shafts fixed	...	...	0	1	7	
Privies reconstructed	...	...	3	8	9	
Privy vaults abolished and pails substituted	...	18	74	89		
Insufficient accommodation, new privies built	...	10	15	16		
Dilapidated privies repaired	...	11	13	7		
New privy seats	...	5	31	7		
Filthy privies cleansed	...	23	13	20		
Privy vaults covered	...	5	10	16		
New vaults provided	...	1	1	6		
Urinal drains trapped	...	0	3	1		
Filthy houses cleansed	...	5	4	1		
House stripped after infection	...	0	1	1		
House roofs repaired	...	7	8	8		
Houses re-roofed	...	0	2	2		
House chimney stack re-built	...	0	0	1		
House walls repaired	...	4	2	4		
House floors repaired	...	0	0	4		
House eaves spouting repaired	...	5	9	3		
Overcrowding abated	...	4	3	7		
Houses disinfected after Infectious Diseases	...	17	15	24		
Impure water supply abolished	...	3	0	2		
Insufficient water supply remedied	...	16	3	16		
Wells cleaned out	...	4	5	13		
New wells sunk	...	5	1	6		
Wells repaired	...	0	6	3		
Filter put down	...	0	0	1		
Pump repaired	...	0	0	1		
Accumulations of manure removed	...	3	16	11		
Animals improperly kept removed	...	2	9	17		
Stable drained	...	0	1	1		
Inspections for Nuisances	747	635	635	805	1005	
Visits for Zymotic Diseases	88	58	41	55	57	

The Number of Births registered in the District during the year was 305, against 292 of the previous year, shewing an increase and a rate of 24.75 per 1000.

Deaths.

There have been 158 Deaths this year, against 169 of the previous year, shewing an average of 12.75.

		No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1000.
No. 1 District	...	36	12.29
No. 2 ,,	...	42	12.31
No. 3 ,,	...	32	11.28
No. 4 ,,	...	31	9.90
Workhouse	...	17	

The Deaths are from the following complaints:—

Whooping Cough	...	...	9
Diphtheria	...	...	3
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	3
Epidemic Influenza	...	...	2
Diarrhoea	...	...	2
Phthisis	...	...	10
Cancer	...	...	14
Bronchitis	...	...	9
Venereal Diseases	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	...	5
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition			1
Heart Diseases	...	...	16
Suicides	...	...	1
Inquests	...	...	9
All other causes	...	...	71
			—
Total	...	158	

Diseases
Notified.

The following is a summary of Diseases notified:—

Diphtheria	...	...	12
Erysipelas	...	...	22
Scarlatina	...	...	29
Enteric Fever	...	...	1
			—
Total	...	64	

Water
Supply.

The Water Supply has had attention during the year. Six new Wells have been sunk, 13 cleaned out, and 3 repaired. It is a matter of regret that the Public Health (Water) Act of 1878 does not permit of a greater expenditure.

Schools Closed.			From.	Till.	Disease.
	Ditchingham Board School	...	Feb. 23.	Mar. 23.	Scarlatina.
	Broome Board School	...	May 6.	May 25.	Whooping Cough.
	Bergh Apton	...	July 29.	Harvest Holidays.	Mumps.
	Alpington and Yelverton Board School		Nov. 12.	Dec. 7.	Mumps.
	Ellingham	...	Nov. 23.	Dec. 28.	Scarlatina.
	Thwaite	...	Dec. 31.	Jan. 11. 1904.	Measles.

Notices have been sent to various Schools requesting Teachers not to allow Children to attend School from houses which have had Infectious Diseases till after disinfection.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There have been several Inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds which have been found generally in good order.

The following Table shows the increase of work:—

	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Preliminary Notices	65	107	93	152	193
Statutory ,,	23	18	11	32	26

I trust, Gentlemen, you will consider this a satisfactory Report. The work continues to increase although the Population of the District continues to decrease. We have had no serious Epidemic for some years now. I have against to thank Mr. Pritchard, your Sanitary Inspector, for the valuable assistance he has given me this year as well as in other years.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

E. THURLOW PRIOR,
M.O.H.

